

TITLE OF THE INVENTION

OPTICAL UNIT, VIDEO DISPLAY APPARATUS, AND COLOR SWITCHING
METHOD

5 BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

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The present invention relates to an optical unit, as an optical unit, for projection apparatuses such as a liquid crystal projector apparatus, a reflection-type video display projector apparatus, and a projection-type rear projection television, which project a video image on a screen by using a light valve element, e.g., a liquid crystal panel or a video display element, to a projection-type video display apparatus, and to a color switching method. More particularly, the present invention relates to a technique for projecting a video image by using an electronic time-division optical characteristics switching element capable of periodically switching colors incident on a light valve element.

2. Description of the Related Art

20 A paper of "Throughput Color Switch for Sequential Color Projection (SID 2000 DIGEST) written by Gary D. Sharp et al. discloses an electronic time-division optical characteristics switching element (hereinafter, simply referred to as an optical characteristics switching element) capable of periodically
25 colors incident on a light valve element by using polarizing

rotation control elements for polarizing optical axis of specific wavelength bands such as an R polarizing rotation control element for rotating a polarizing axis of R-light (red light) as P polarizing light and for converting the R-light into S polarizing light, a G polarizing rotation control element for rotating a polarizing axis of G-light (green light) as P polarizing light and for converting the G-light into S polarizing light, and a B polarization rotation control element for rotating a polarizing axis of B-light (blue light) as P polarizing light and for converting the B-light into S polarizing light.

As disclosed in the paper, light from a light source is reflected by a reflector and the reflected light passes through first a first lens array and a second lens array. The passing light is converted into the P polarizing light by a polarizing beam splitter (hereinafter, referred to as a PBS), is transmitted through a condenser, is incident on a transmission-type optical characteristics switching element. Thus, the R-light, the G-light, and B-light are sequentially outputted, are transmitted through the PBS. Those R-, G-, and B-lights are incident on a reflection-type liquid crystal panel and are reflected to the liquid crystal panel. When a video signal displays white, the P polarizing light is converted into the S polarizing light by the liquid panel and is reflected by the PBS. The reflected light passes through a projecting lens, thereby obtaining an enlarged video image.

An optical unit in the disclosure is L-shaped as a whole.

In the optical unit, a distance between the projecting lens and the liquid crystal panel is long and a product set is increased in size.

5 Further, in the liquid panel used for a projection-type video display apparatus, the response time of liquid crystal is long. Therefore, in the conventional projection-type video display apparatus for switching polarizing rotation control elements for R-, G-, and B-light which sequentially project the R-light, the G-light, and the B-light onto the overall screen of the liquid crystal panel, there is a problem in that the use efficiency of light is degraded.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

15 It is one object of the present invention to provide a projection-type video display technique according to which, an apparatus becomes compact and contrast is improved.

20 It is another object of the present invention to provide a novel and advantageous projection-type video display technique according to which, the use efficiency of light is improved.

To solve the above objects of the present invention, according to the present invention, there is provided a video display apparatus comprising: an optical source unit for radiating light; polarization converter for matching light, 25 which is outputted by the light source unit, to one of S polarizing

light and P polarizing light; an optical characteristics
switching element for electrically and periodically switching
a wavelength band of light outputted by the polarization
converter; a video display element, as light valve element, for
5 forming an optical image from the light outputted by the light
source unit, in accordance with a video signal; radiating device
for radiating light to the video display element; and projector
for projecting light outputted by the video display element.
Preferably, the video display apparatus may further comprise
10 a light path changing element and, accordingly, a light path
from the light source unit to the projector may be U-shaped.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Fig. 1 is a schematic diagram showing the structure of
an optical unit for a projection-type video display apparatus
according to a first embodiment of the present invention;

Fig. 2 is a schematic diagram showing the structure of
an optical unit for a projection-type video display apparatus
according to a second embodiment of the present invention;

Fig. 3 is a schematic diagram showing the structure of
an optical unit for a projection-type video display apparatus
according to a third embodiment of the present invention;

Fig. 4 is a schematic diagram showing the structure of
an optical unit for a projection-type video display apparatus
25 according to a fourth embodiment of the present invention;

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Fig. 5 is a schematic diagram showing the structure of an optical unit for a projection-type video display apparatus according to a fifth embodiment of the present invention;

Fig. 6 is a schematic diagram showing the structure of an optical unit for a projection-type video display apparatus according to a sixth embodiment of the present invention;

Fig. 7A is a schematic diagram showing the structure of an optical unit for a projection-type video display apparatus and Figs. 7B and 7C are schematic diagrams showing light areas radiated on a liquid crystal panel, according to a seventh embodiment of the present invention;

Fig. 8 is a schematic diagram showing the structure of an optical unit for a projection-type video display apparatus according to an eighth embodiment of the present invention;

Fig. 9 is a schematic diagram showing the structure of an optical unit for a projection-type video display apparatus according to a ninth embodiment of the present invention;

Figs. 10A to 10C are schematic diagrams showing the structure of an optical unit for R-light, for a projection-type video display apparatus according to a tenth embodiment of the present invention;

Figs. 11A to 11C are schematic diagrams showing the structure of an optical unit for G-light, for a projection-type video display apparatus according to the tenth embodiment;

Figs. 12A to 12C are schematic diagrams showing the

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according to a twelfth embodiment of the present invention;

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of the present invention;

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Fig. 20 is a characteristics diagram showing light waveforms and response waveforms of a liquid crystal panel, for explaining a scroll method according to the third embodiment of the present invention;

5 Figs. 21A and 21B are front views of the liquid crystal panel for explaining the scroll method according to the third embodiment of the present invention;

Fig. 22 is a waveform diagram for explaining a method for reducing a response time of liquid crystal;

10 Fig. 23 is a schematic diagram for explaining a light switching method according to the scroll method;

Fig. 24 is a block diagram showing an example of an image display circuit;

15 Figs. 25A to 25F are first schematic diagrams for explaining the principle of an optical characteristics switching element;

Fig. 26 is a second schematic diagram for explaining the principle of the optical characteristics switching element; and

Fig. 27 is a characteristics diagram showing light waveforms and response waveforms of a liquid crystal panel.

20 DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

Hereinbelow, embodiments of the present invention will be described with reference to the drawings.

First, before explaining the present invention, a
25 description is given of the principle of an electronic

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time-division optical characteristics switching element
(hereinafter, referred to as an optical characteristics
switching element) with reference to Fig. 26.

Fig. 26 is a schematic diagram for explaining the principle
of a optical characteristics switching element. Referring to
Fig. 26, the optical characteristics switching element comprises
an R polarizing rotation control element 211, a G polarizing
rotation control element 212, a B polarizing rotation control
element 213, polarizing plates 221 and 222. Reference symbol
231 denotes a polarization beam splitter (hereinafter, simply
referred to as a PBS), and reference symbol 232 denotes a
reflection-type liquid crystal panel. As shown in Fig. 26, if
the PBS 231 is arranged at the back of the optical characteristics
switching elements, the polarizing plate 222 is not necessarily
required. If no voltage is applied to the R polarizing rotation
control element 211, the G polarizing rotation control element
212, and the B polarizing rotation control element 213, light
polarizing axes of specific wavelength bands are converted. On
the contrary, if a voltage is applied to the R polarizing rotation
control element 211, the G polarizing rotation control element
212, and the B polarizing rotation control element 213, the
R-light, the B-light, and the G-light are outputted without
changing the light polarizing axes of the specific wavelength
bands. In Fig. 26, for example, the voltage is applied to the
R polarizing rotation control element 211 and no voltage is

applied to the G polarizing rotation control element 212 and the B polarizing rotation control element 213, the R-light, as the S polarizing light, without being changed is transmitted through the R-, G-, and B- polarizing rotation control elements 211, 212, and 213 and is incident on the PBS 231. On the other hand, since the G- and B-lights as the S polarizing light are converted into the P polarizing light by the G polarizing rotation control element 212 and the B polarizing rotation control element 213, they are not transmitted through the PBS 222. Therefore, the R-light is incident on the PBS 231, is reflected to a PBS film, and is incident on the liquid crystal panel 232. If white light is displayed by using a video signal, the liquid crystal panel 232 converts the white light into the P polarizing light, the P polarizing light after the conversion is transmitted through the PBS 231, and is emitted. By sequentially applying the voltages to the G polarizing rotation control element 212 and the B polarizing rotation control element 213, the G- and B-lights as the P polarizing light are transmitted through the PBS 231 and are outputted. Then, the R-, G-, and B-lights are sequentially projected onto the screen through a projecting lens (not shown). Since a period for the above switching is short, the R-, G-, and B-lights are felt as white on the human's eyes.

Although it is assumed in the above description that the S polarizing light is incident on the optical characteristics switching element, the P polarizing light may be incident. In

this case, the P polarizing light is transmitted through the polarizing rotation control element to which no voltage is applied, thereby being converted into the S polarizing light, and is not incident on the PBS 231.

5 Fig. 1 is a schematic diagram showing the structure of an optical unit for a projection-type video display apparatus according to a first embodiment of the present invention.

Referring to Fig. 1, a lamp for emitting light comprises a light source 19 and a reflector 1. Reference symbol 2 denotes a first lens array, reference symbol 3 denotes a second lens array, reference symbol 4 denotes a PBS, reference symbol 4a denotes a $\lambda/2$ phase difference plate, reference symbol 5 denotes a condenser lens (collimator lens), reference symbol 14 denotes a reflecting mirror, reference symbol 6 denotes a condenser lens, reference symbol 7 denotes a optical characteristics switching element, and reference symbol 9a denotes a polarizing plate. Reference symbol 10 denotes a cuboid-shaped PBS comprising a PBS film 10a. Reference symbol 11 denotes a $\lambda/4$ phase difference plate, reference symbol 12a denotes a reflection-type liquid crystal panel for forming an optical image in accordance with the video signal, reference symbol 9b denotes a polarizing plate, and reference symbol 13 denotes a projecting lens. In first to thirteen embodiments, the cuboid-shaped PBS may be replaced with a flat PBS.

25 According to the first embodiment, in the projection-type

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video display apparatus, light radiated from the light source
19 is condensed to the reflector 1 having an elliptical plane,
a parabolic plane, or an aspherical plane. The condensed light
is incident on the first array lens 2 comprising a plurality
of condenser lens cells provided for a rectangular frame having
substantially the same size as that of the opening for emission
of the reflector 1 as the reflecting mirror, which condenses
the light outputted by the reflector 1 and forms a plurality
of secondary light-source images. Further, the light passes
through the second array lens 3 comprising a plurality of
condensing lens cells, provided near a portion at which the
plurality of secondary light-source images are formed, which
forms the individual lens images through the first array lens
2 onto the reflection-type liquid crystal panel 12a.

Hereinbelow, functions of the first and second array lenses
2 and 3 will be described. Generally, in the distribution of
illumination after the light emission from the reflector 1, the
illumination is low at the peripheral portion thereof and it
is higher near the center thereof. However, in the center, the
light is vignetted by a pole of a bulb and, therefore, the
illumination is low. The first and second array lenses 2 and
3 have a function for finely separating the distribution of the
illumination after the light emission from the reflector 1 and
for collecting the separated illumination, thereby obtaining
a uniform distribution of illumination on the reflection-type

liquid crystal panel 12a.

The emitted light is incident on the PBS 4 comprising arrays of rhombic prisms having substantially half size of each of lens arranged to match a pitch of the optical axes of lenses comprising the second array lens 3, in the horizontal direction. A PBS film is formed on the plane of the prism, and the incident light is split into the P polarizing light and the S polarizing light through the PBS film. The P polarizing light advances straightly through the PBS film and a polarizing direction thereof is rotated by 90° by using the $\lambda//2$ phase difference plate 4a provided for an output plane of the prism. Then, the light is converted into the S polarizing light and is outputted. On the other hand, the S polarizing light is reflected to the PBS film, is reflected to the adjacent rhombic prism in the original optical axis again, and is outputted as the S polarizing light.

The output light is transmitted through the condenser lens 5, is reflected to the reflecting mirror 16, is transmitted through the condenser lens 6, and is incident on the polarizing plate 9a. The purity of specific polarization is increased by using the polarizing plate 9a and, then, is incident on the optical characteristics switching element 7 for the R-, G-, and B-lights.

As mentioned above, the optical characteristics switching element 7 periodically switches the light wavelength bands. Of the output light of the optical characteristics switching element 7, the R-light is converted into the S polarizing light and the

G- and B-lights are converted into the P polarizing light at one timing. The B-light is converted into the S polarizing light and the R- and G-lights are sequentially converted into the P polarizing light at another timing. The G-light is converted into the S polarizing light and the B- and R-lights are converted into the P polarizing light at further another timing. The three converted statuses are periodically switched.

Thereafter, the specific optical axis, that is, only the S polarizing light is reflected and the P polarizing light is incident on the cuboid-shaped PBS 10 covered with the PBS film 10a through which the P polarizing light is transmitted. Thereby, only the R-light as the S polarizing light is reflected at one timing, only the B-light is sequentially reflected at another timing, and only the G-light is sequentially reflected. In this case, the P polarizing light as unnecessary light is transmitted through the PBS film 10a and is not incident on the reflection-type liquid crystal panel 12a. As mentioned above, after the time-division color separation, the light is radiated to the reflection-type liquid crystal panel 12a. The $\lambda/4$ phase difference plate 11 for improving the contrast based on the phase compensation is arranged in front of the reflection-type liquid crystal panel 12a.

A liquid crystal display unit corresponding to the number of display pixels, for example, <(1024 pixels in landscape) x (768 pixels in portrait)> is provided for the reflection-type

liquid crystal panel 12a. A drive circuit drives the reflection-type liquid crystal panel 12a based on a video signal which is externally inputted. The radiated light is modulated in accordance with the video signal and is outputted again to the PBS 10 as reflected light. The amount of light outputted to the projecting lens 13 and the amount of light outputted to the light source 19 are determined depending on a relationship between the polarized status of the light and the polarizing axes of the PBS film 10a in the case of the transmission and the reflection. As mentioned above, an image is projected in accordance with the external input video signal. Of the light outputted by the reflection-type liquid crystal panel 12a, the P polarizing light is transmitted through the PBS film 10a and, then, is incident on the projecting lens 13 through the polarizing plate 9b for improving the contrast due to the increase in degree of polarization. In this case, when black is displayed on the reflection-type liquid crystal panel 12a, with respect to the polarizing direction, the light is the S polarizing light equivalent to the incident light and, therefore, the cuboid-shaped PBS 10 returns the light to the light source 19 side along an incident light path.

Thereafter, the light as the video signal passes through, for example, a projecting lens 20 as a zoom lens and reaches a screen. Through the projecting lens 20, the image formed on the reflection-type liquid crystal panel 12a is enlarged and

projected on the screen and functions as a video liquid crystal display apparatus. In the video liquid crystal display apparatus, a drive circuit, which will be described later, drives the light source 19, the reflection-type liquid crystal panel 12a, and the optical characteristics switching element 7.

According to the first embodiment, as shown in Fig. 1, the optical axis 18 from the reflector 1 to the projecting lens 13 is U-shaped. In other words, the optical direction from the reflector 1 is substantially in parallel to the optical direction from the projecting lens 13, they are mutually in the opposite direction, and an optical unit is arranged in the direction obtained by bending the optical axis 18 twice. Consequently, the external size of the optical unit is miniaturized with the structure of the same units. Simultaneously, the external size of the product set can further be reduced.

Fig. 2 is a schematic diagram showing the structure of an optical unit for a projection-type video display apparatus according to a second embodiment of the present invention. Referring to Fig. 2, portions similar to those in Fig. 1 are designated by the same reference symbols and the description thereof is omitted.

Although the transmission-type optical characteristics switching element is used in Fig. 1 according to the first embodiment, a reflection-type optical characteristics switching element is used according to the second embodiment. A

reflection-type optical characteristics switching element 7a separates colors into ON-light 14a and OFF-light 14b, and emits

According to the second embodiment, optical characteristics switching element 7a which performs reflection-type electronic color separation etc. is used for a light-path bending portion. Therefore, similarly to the first embodiment, the optical axis from the reflector 1 to the projecting lens 13 is U-shaped, that is, the optical direction from the reflector 1 is substantially in parallel to the optical direction from the projecting lens 13, and they are mutually in the opposite direction. An optical unit is arranged in the direction obtained by bending the optical axis 18 twice.

Consequently, the external size of the optical unit is miniaturized with the structure of the same parts.

Simultaneously, the external size of the product set can further

be reduced.

Fig. 3 is a schematic diagram showing the structure of an optical unit for a projection-type video display apparatus according to a third embodiment of the present invention.

5 Referring to Fig. 3, portions similar to those in Figs. 1 and 2 are designated by the same reference symbols and the description thereof is omitted.

According to the third embodiment, a light path is L-shaped. The polarizing plates 9a and 9c and the optical characteristics switching element 7 perform color separation because the PBS is not provided in the light path subsequent thereto. The optical characteristics switching elements is provided on the output side of the condenser lens 6. The polarizing plate 9c cuts OFF-light in a different polarizing direction. A transmission-type liquid crystal panel 12b is provided as a video display element. In the optical characteristics switching element 7, by using the group of polarizing rotation control elements, the R-, G-, and B-lights are sequentially incident on the transmission-type liquid crystal panel 12b.

According to the third embodiment, the transmission-type liquid crystal panel 12b is used. Therefore, the PBS becomes unnecessary and, thus, the projection-type video display apparatus is reduced in weight. Since a distance between the transmission-type liquid crystal panel 12b and the projecting lens 13 is short and a back-focusing distance is also short,

the projecting lens 13 is short and is reduced in weight.
Accordingly, the size of the product set can be miniaturized.

Fig. 4 is a schematic diagram showing an optical unit for a projection-type video display apparatus according to a fourth embodiment of the present invention. Referring to Fig. 4, the reflection-type optical characteristics switching element 7a shown in Fig. 2 is used and ON-light, which is reflected, is incident on the projecting lens 13 through the transmission-type liquid crystal panel 12b. OFF-light is shielded by the shielding plate 17. The reflection-type optical characteristics switching element 7a is provided between the polarizing plate 9 and the condenser lens 6. A light path from the light source 19 is bent at a substantially right angle and is L-shaped. According to the fourth embodiment, the optical unit can be compact.

Fig. 5 is a schematic diagram showing the structure of an optical unit for a projection-type video display apparatus according to a fifth embodiment of the present invention.

According to the fifth embodiment, polarizing plates 9a and 9b and the optical characteristics switching element 7 is provided on the output side of the condenser lens 6. The output light from the condenser lens 6 is incident on a TIR prism 8 as a total reflection prism. The light incident on the TIR prism 8 is reflected to a reflection preventing film 31 (such as an AR multi-coating), and is incident on a reflection-type

micromirror video display element 12c. The reflection-type micromirror video display element 12c comprises a mirror composed of small pixel units, and can be rotated at an angle of substantially 30° by applying a voltage. The ON-light 14a is outputted in the optical axis direction of the projecting lens 13, and the OFF-light 14b is reflected so as not to be incident on the projecting lens 13. When black is displayed on a projection screen, the OFF-light 14b is used. When white or the like is displayed on the projection screen, the ON-light 14a is used. When gray is displayed on the projection screen, the gradation of brightness can be controlled by switching a period of time for the ON-light 14a and that for the OFF-light 14b.

The reflection-type micromirror video display element 12c rotates a micromirror by electrostatic force, and fast switches the ON-light 14a and the OFF-light 14b, thus preventing the loss of switching time.

Fig. 6 is a schematic diagram showing an optical unit for a projection-type video display apparatus according to a sixth embodiment of the present invention.

According to the sixth embodiment, the reflection-type optical characteristics switching element 7a is used. The reflection-type micromirror video display element 12c is used as a display element and a light path thereof is U-shaped. The reflection-type optical characteristics switching element 7a is provided between the polarizing plate 9a and the condenser

lens 6. The total reflection prism 8 is provided on the output side of the condenser lens 6. The output light reflected to the total reflection prism 8 is incident on the reflection-type micromirror video display element 12c. In this optical system, the output light of the reflection-type optical characteristics switching element 7a has a function for executing operations similar the that in Fig. 6 according to the sixth embodiment, and switching time of the ON-light 14a and the OFF-light 14b is fast, thus reducing the loss of the switching time. The optical unit can be compact.

According to the first to sixth embodiments, in a so-called scroll method in which when the optical characteristics switching elements sequentially radiate R-, G-, and B-lights to the overall plane of the liquid crystal panel 12, that is, when the optical characteristics switching elements sequentially radiate the R-light, the G-light, and the B-light to the overall liquid crystal panel 12, although the light is not so accurately condensed to the liquid crystal panel 12, the R-light is radiated to one area corresponding to 1/3 of the liquid crystal panel 12, the G-light is radiated to another area corresponding to 1/3 of the liquid crystal panel 12, and the B-light is radiated to another area corresponding to 1/3 of the liquid crystal panel 12, that is, the radiated areas of the R-, G-, and B-lights are different, the light must be correctly condensed at the radiated area of the R-, G-, and B-lights. In other words, an image forming

optical system for forming an image of the optical characteristics switching element 7 on the display element is necessary.

Hereinbelow, a description is given the structure with an image forming optical system for correctly forming an image at a predetermined area by improving image forming performance with reference to Figs. 7A to 9.

Fig. 7A is a schematic diagram showing the structure of an optical unit for a projection-type video display apparatus according to a seventh embodiment of the present invention, and Figs. 7B and 7C are schematic diagrams showing areas of light which is radiated on a liquid crystal display panel. According to the seventh embodiment, on optical characteristics switching element 7, a plurality of separated color lights are moved and displayed on different positions, and an image forming optical system 15 forms an image of the optical characteristics switching element 7 on a display element 12a.

According to the seventh embodiment, at one timing, as shown in Fig. 7B, the R-light is radiated at the top area of a screen of the liquid crystal panel, the G-light is radiated at the center area, and the B-light is radiated at the bottom area. At another timing, as shown in Fig. 7C, the B-light is radiated at the top area of a screen of the liquid crystal panel, the R-light is radiated at the center area, and the G-light is radiated at the bottom area. That is, when the areas at which

the R-, G-, and B-lights are radiated, are sequentially changed, the images of the light radiated at the areas are formed so as to prevent the radiated light from being out of the radiated areas and it is important the ununiformity of colors are prevented.

According to the seventh embodiment, to improve the image forming performance, the S polarizing light as output light from the optical characteristics switching elements 7 is reflected to the reflecting mirror 16, through an image forming optical system 15a, and it is incident on the PBS 10. The incident light is reflected to the PBS film 10a, and is incident on the reflection-type liquid crystal panel 12a through the $\lambda/4$ phase difference plate 11. By using the image forming optical system 15a which is properly designed, the R-light, the G-light, and the B-light of the image on the optical characteristics switching element 7 are condensed, with small aberration, at the top area, the center area, and the bottom area of the reflection-type liquid crystal panel 12a, and is formed on the reflection-type liquid crystal panel 12a as the display element.

According to the seventh embodiment, the optical characteristics switching element 7 time-sequentially changes electric control conditions at a plurality of positions corresponding to the scanning direction of the reflection-type display panel 12a, thereby time-sequentially multiplying and radiating a plurality of color light on the display element.

It is assumed that the optical characteristics switching element 7 acts on the R-, G-, and B-lights and the number n of the plane of the optical characteristics switching element 7 is divided into n , like a line, in the landscape direction. In this case, in a first period, a voltage is sequentially applied or is not applied in descending order, thereby outputting the R-light. After the area of the R-light corresponds to substantially $1/3$ of the optical characteristics switching element 7, i.e., an $n/3$ -th area, the output of the R-light is sequentially moved down with a width of substantially $1/3$ on the display element. From the top area of the optical characteristics switching element 7 after the movement of the area of the R-light, the G-light is outputted based on, for example, the polarization control of the optical characteristics switching element 7. The optical characteristics switching element 7 may be a wavelength-selecting-type reflection control element. In this case, if, in place of the reflecting mirror 16, the wavelength-selecting-type reflection control element is arranged and a reflection unit is arranged on the light path, it is possible to obtain functions equivalent to those of the optical characteristics switching element 7.

Similarly, a voltage is sequentially applied or is not applied in descending order, thereby outputting the G-light. After the area of the G-light corresponds to substantially $1/3$ of the optical characteristics switching element 7, i.e., an

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condenser lens 6 is a telecentric system and the optical axes of the light passing through the optical characteristics switching element 7 may be in parallel thereto. The optical characteristics switching element 7 may be attached to the condenser lens 6 or be attached to a first lens of the image forming optical system 15. The polarizing plate 9a may be arranged just in front of the PBS 10, and the optical characteristics are likely to be improved when the polarized plate 9a is arranged at the back of parallel light through by the telecentric image forming optical system 15. The S polarizing light in the light path can be set to match characteristics thereof to characteristics of the P polarizing light. In this case, the S polarizing light in the light path can be transmitted through the PBS 10 and can be incident on the liquid crystal panel. However, if characteristics of the contrast are regarded, the $1/2\lambda$ phase plate can be arranged in the front of or behind the polarizing plate 9a and the light can be reflected to the PBS 10 and can be incident on the liquid crystal panel.

According to the seventh embodiment, the use efficiency of the light can be improved and the screen can be bright. Other functions and advantages are substantially the same as those according to the first to the sixth embodiments.

Fig. 8 is a schematic diagram showing the structure of an optical unit for a projection-type video display apparatus

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according to an eighth embodiment of the present invention. In place of the image forming optical system 15a in Fig. 7 according to the seventh embodiment, an aspherical image forming optical system 15b using an aspherical lens is used. According to the eighth embodiment, the image forming performance of the image forming optical system 15 in the seventh embodiment can further be improved. Therefore, a clear image of the optical characteristics switching element 7 can be obtained on the display element 12a. Rising time for writing a signal can be reduced. If aberration performance equivalent to that of a spherical lens or more is obtained, it is advantageous that the length of the light path can be reduced, the number of lenses can be reduced, and weight can be reduced, and the like. In place of the aspherical lens, a plastic lens, a hybrid lens, or the like may be used. To improve color aberration, an achromatic lens may be used. According to the eighth embodiment, the amount of aberration is smaller than that of the seventh embodiment in Fig. 7 and the R-, G-, and B-lights can be condensed at the areas and can the image thereof be formed.

Fig. 9 is a schematic diagram showing an optical unit for a projection-type video display apparatus according to a ninth embodiment of the present invention. The ninth embodiment uses the reflection-type optical characteristics switching element 7a for selectively controlling the reflection in accordance with the light wavelength. The light incident on the reflection-type

optical characteristics switching element 7a via the total reflection prism 8 and the light outputted by the reflection-type optical characteristics switching element 7a pass through the total reflection prism 8. In other words, a reflecting angle of the total reflection prism 8 is optimized so that an incident angle and an output angle to/from the reflection-type optical characteristics switching element 7 at both the angles sandwich a critical angle. Consequently, the light path from the light source 19 is bent by substantially 90°. According to the ninth embodiment, the output light through the condenser lens 6 is incident on the total reflection prism 8, and the light reflected to a reflection preventing film 31 is radiated to the reflection-type optical characteristics switching element 7a. The reflected light (S polarizing light) is transmitted through the total reflection prism 8 and passes through the image forming optical system 15a, and is incident on the cuboid-shaped PBS 10. The S polarizing light reflected to the PBS film 10a of the cuboid-shaped PBS 10 is reflected to the reflection-type liquid crystal panel 12a. The reflected light becomes the P polarizing light, is transmitted through the cuboid-shaped PBS 10, and is incident on the projecting lens 13, when the video signal displays white.

The structure of the ninth embodiment is accomplished by further improving that shown in Fig. 4, of the fourth embodiment.

According to the fourth embodiment, the reflection-type

polarizing rotation control element 7a reflects the light substantially at a right angle. In this case, an incident angle, itself, to the polarizing rotation control element 7a is large. An incident angle and an output angle of the light radiated to the top area of the polarizing rotation control element 7a (to an upper edge in Fig. 4) are greatly different from an incident angle and an output angle of the light, radiated to the lower edge, of the reflection-type optical characteristics switching element 7a. When the light is emitted from the reflection-type optical characteristics switching element 7a and is incident on the liquid crystal panel due to the difference of the input angles and the output angles, the color blur is caused at the right and left of the liquid crystal panel.

On the contrary, according to the ninth embodiment, the light is reflected to the total reflection prism 8 and is incident on the reflection-type optical characteristics switching element 7a. Therefore, the incident angle and the output angle to the reflection-type optical characteristics switching element 7a can be reduced. A large part of the reflected light of the optical characteristics switching element 7a is designed so that they are incident on the reflection preventing film 31 at an angle between the reflected light and the reflection preventing film 31, smaller than the critical angle in the case of the total reflection. Therefore, the light is efficiently transmitted through the reflection preventing film 31 and is

incident on the image forming optical system 15a.

As mentioned above, since the incident angle and the output angle to the reflection-type optical characteristics switching element 7a can be reduced, the effect of angle characteristics, that is, color blur can be reduced. The light is efficiently transmitted through the total reflection prism 8 and, consequently, the use efficiency of light can be improved.

According to the ninth embodiment, it is advantageous when the incident angle and the reflecting angle to the optical characteristics switching element 7a are smaller than 45° . When the incident angle and the reflecting angle are small, an overlapped portion of the light path is prolonged. When optical units such as lenses are arranged to the overlapped portion, there are limitations on design and arrangement of the optical units, such that a light path of a holding portion in the optical units is prevented from being vignetted and only the optical units are arranged without trouble even when the light passes twice, that is, upon an incident timing and a reflection timing. Therefore, the external size of the optical unit is increased.

In the structure according to the ninth embodiment, the limitation on the design and the arrangement of the optical units are removed and the external size of the optical unit can be miniaturized. In accordance therewith, the external size of the product set can further be reduced. Further, the optical characteristics switching element 7 can be easily attached. In

the structure according to the ninth embodiment, the incident light is incident on the optical characteristics switching element 7 at a small incident angle and the output light from the reflection plane or the diffraction plane is outputted at a small reflecting angle and, therefore, the optical characteristics switching element 7 can be used with preferable optical performance.

Further, according to the ninth embodiment, the output light of the total reflection prism 8 is incident on the reflection-type liquid crystal panel 12a via the image forming optical system 15a and, similarly with the seventh embodiment in Fig. 7, therefore, the R-, G-, and B-lights are not out of the top area, the center area, and the bottom area and is correctly condensed without aberration. Then, the image of the R-, G-, and B-light is formed.

Figs. 10 to 12 show the structure in which an electronic optical characteristics switching element such as a hologram-type one, a diffraction grating, or a Fresnel lens is provided and a scroll method is used, according to a tenth embodiment of the present invention.

Hereinbelow, a description is given of the structure for scrolling, in which the R-light, the G-light, and the B-light are sequentially radiated at the top area, the center area, and the bottom area of the liquid crystal panel.

Figs. 10A to 10C are schematic diagrams showing the

structure of an optical unit for R-light, for a projection-type video display apparatus according to the tenth embodiment of the present invention. A description is given of a case of scrolling the R-light with reference to Figs. 10A to 10C.

5 Figs. 11A to 11C are schematic diagrams showing the structure of an optical unit for G-light, for a projection-type video display apparatus according to the tenth embodiment of the present invention. A description is given of a case of scrolling the G-light with reference to Figs. 11A to 11C

10 Figs. 12A to 12C are schematic diagrams showing the structure of an optical unit for B-light, for a projection-type video display apparatus according to the tenth embodiment of the present invention. A description is given of a case of scrolling the B-light with reference to Figs. 12A to 12C.

15 According to the tenth embodiment of the present invention, hologram-type optical characteristics switching elements using diffracted light is used. The hologram-type optical characteristics switching elements have a lens function. The hologram-type optical characteristics switching element for
20 R-light uses three optical characteristics elements 7R1 to 7R3. In this case, the optical characteristics switching element 7R1 can change a condensing direction by the lens function or the diffraction so as to radiate the R-light at the top area (the R-area in Fig. 7B) of the reflection-type liquid crystal panel
25 12a. The optical characteristics switching element 7R2 can

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change a condensing direction by the lens function or the diffraction so as to radiate the R-light at the center area (the G-area in Fig. 7B) of the reflection-type liquid crystal panel 12a. The optical characteristics switching element 7R3 can
5 change a condensing direction by the lens function or the diffraction so as to radiate the R-light at the bottom area (the B-area in Fig. 7B) of the reflection-type liquid crystal panel 12a. Also, the hologram-type optical characteristics switching
10 element for G-light uses three optical characteristics elements 7G1 to 7G3. Further, the hologram-type optical characteristics switching element for B-light uses three optical characteristics elements 7B1 to 7B3.

In the hologram-type optical characteristics switching elements 7R1 to 7R3 for R-light, the hologram-type optical
15 characteristics switching elements 7G1 to 7G3 for G-light, and the hologram-type optical characteristics switching elements 7B1 to 7B3 for B-light, a voltage is applied thereto and light is transmitted therethrough, and no voltage is applied and the optical axis of the specific wavelength band is changed by the
20 lens function or the diffraction.

The hologram-type optical characteristics switching elements 7R1 to 7R3 for R-light, the hologram-type optical characteristics switching elements 7G1 to 7G3 for G-light, and the hologram-type optical characteristics switching elements
25 7B1 to 7B3 for B-light are overlappingly used.

For the sake of the simple description, Figs. 10A to 10C show the hologram-type optical characteristics switching elements for R-light 7R1 to 7R3 according to the tenth embodiment of the present invention, Figs. 11A to 11C show the hologram-type optical characteristics switching elements 7G1 to 7G3 for G-light according to the tenth embodiment, and Figs. 12A to 12C show the hologram-type optical characteristics switching elements for B-light 7B1 to 7B3 according to the tenth embodiment. In the case in which times t1, t2, and t3 sequentially pass, Figs. 10A, 11A, and 12A show a status at the time t1, Figs. 10B, 11B, and 12B show a status at the time t2, and Figs. 10C, 11C, and 12C show a status at the time t3.

Referring to Figs. 10A to 12C, the light from the light source 19 is converted into the S polarizing light by the PBS 4 and, thereafter, is incident on the hologram-type optical characteristics switching element for R-light 7R1 to 7R3, the hologram-type optical characteristics switching elements 7G1 to 7G3 for G-light, and the hologram-type optical characteristics switching elements 7B1 to 7B3 for B-light.

According to the tenth embodiment, the image forming optical system 15a is designed so that a plane of the light source of an incident lens is flat and an image is formed on the flat plane of the light source and the reflection-type liquid crystal panel 12a. In the reflection-type liquid crystal panel 12a, the top thereof is arranged to the light source side and the

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characteristics switching element 7R3 for R-light. In this case, the optical axis of the R-light as the S polarizing light is converted by the hologram-type optical characteristics switching element 7R3 for R-light and the R-light is condensed at the bottom area of the flat plane of the incident lens of the image forming system 15a. At the time t_3 , referring to Fig.

11C, a voltage is applied to the hologram-type optical characteristics switching elements 7G2 and 7G3 for G-light and no voltage is applied to the hologram-type optical characteristics switching element 7G1 for G-light. In this case, the optical axis of the G-light as the S polarizing light is converted by the hologram-type optical characteristics switching element 7G1 for G-light and the G-light is condensed at the top area of the flat plane of the incident lens of the image forming system 15a. At the time t3, referring to Fig. 12C, a voltage is applied to the hologram-type optical characteristics switching elements 7B1 and 7B3 for B-light and no voltage is applied to the hologram-type optical characteristics switching element 7B2 for B-light. In this case, the optical axis of the B-light as the S polarizing light is converted by the hologram-type optical characteristics switching element 7B2 for B-light and the B-light is condensed at the center area of the flat plane of the incident lens of the image forming system 15a.

As mentioned above, the R-light is sequentially radiated at the top area, the center area, and the bottom area of the liquid panel 15a. The G-light is sequentially is radiated at the center area, the bottom area, and the top area. The B-light is sequentially radiated at the bottom area, the top area, and the center area.

According to the tenth embodiment, the R-, G-, and B-light

scrolls up and down on the liquid crystal panel 15a. However, the directions of the hologram-type optical characteristics switching elements 7R1 to 7R3, 7G1 to 7G3, and 7B1 to 7B3 and liquid crystal panel 15a may be rotated on the respective planes thereof so that the R-, G-, and B-light scrolls at the right and left on the liquid crystal panel 15a.

According to the tenth embodiment, the individual R-, G-, and B-light can scroll. Of course, instead of the R-, G-, and B-light, the R-, G-, B-, and W-light may scroll. Further, cyan, yellow, magenta, and white may scroll. Time for radiating the above color light can be freely determined depending on optical performance such as white balance of the video image, color concentration, and brightness. Obviously, the display using black and white, the display using two colors, and the like can be freely determined depending on product specification.

According to the tenth embodiment, the image forming optical system 15a needs increased costs. To solve the problem of the costs, a plurality of electrodes for voltage supply are provided for the hologram-type optical characteristics switching elements 7R1 to 7R3, 7G1 to 7G3, 7B1 to 7B3 for R-, G-, and B-light. If the optical axis of the R-light is changed by the optical characteristics switching element 7R1 for R-light so as not to apply a voltage to the optical characteristics switching element 7R1 and the R-light is radiated at the top area, a voltage is applied to an electrode provided at the top

portion or the bottom portion of the optical characteristics
switching element 7R1 or to electrodes provided both at the top
portion and at the bottom portion of the optical characteristics
switching element 7R1. In this case, the R-light radiated at
5 the portion of the electrode is not condensed. The radiated
R-light, G-light, and B-light are overlapped to the edges of
the top area, the center area, and the bottom area on the
reflection-type liquid crystal panel 12a, and a voltage is
applied to an electrode provided at the top portion or the bottom
10 portion of the optical characteristics switching element or to
electrodes provided both at the top portion and at the bottom
portion of the optical characteristics switching element 7R1
to 7R3, 7G1 to 7G3, and 7B1 to 7B3 so as not to polarize the
optical axis of the voltage applied portion. In this case, the
15 area at which the light is condensed changes. Referring to Fig.
7B, therefore, the areas at which the R-light, the G-light, and
the B-light are condensed scroll up and down and the areas of
the R-light, the G-light, and the B-light become continuous.
In the case of Fig. 7B, the areas of the R-light, the G-light,
20 and the B-light are enlarged, the area of the R-light is overlapped
to the area of the G-light at the edge thereof, and the area
of the G-light is overlapped to the B-light at the edge thereof.
Thus, the overlapped portions may become complementary color
light by slightly moving up and down the areas of the R-light,
25 the G-light, and the B-light. Although the color switching

method of the reflection-type liquid crystal panel 12a is used based on three-step switching according to the tenth embodiment, color switching having a plurality of steps, that is, three or more steps, may be used. In this case, the image smoothly scrolls the reflection-type liquid crystal panel 12a and, therefore, an image corresponding to color break-up can be hardly viewed. The optical characteristics switching element as optical characteristics switching element overlaps the light which is diffracted by the optical axes for diffraction at a plurality of steps. The optical characteristics switching element 7 as the optical characteristics switching element is provided for radiation of the R-light, the G-light, and the B-light, the R-light, the G-light, the B-light, and W-light, or the cyan, yellow, and magenta.

Fig. 13 is a schematic diagram showing the structure of an optical unit for a projection-type video display apparatus according to an eleventh embodiment of the present invention. Referring to Fig. 13, reference symbol 7RGB denotes an optical characteristics switching element which uses diffracting light in the hologram as described in Fig. 10A to 12C. A condenser lens condenses the R-light, the G-light, and the G-light, as the S polarizing light, which are outputted by the optical characteristics switching element 7RGB. Then, those R-light, G-light, and B-light are reflected to the reflecting mirror 16, image-formed by the image forming optical system 15a, and

5 According to the eleventh embodiment, the reflection-type
color characteristics switching element 7RGB may be used and
be arranged, for example, at the position of the reflecting mirror
16. Thus, the overall size of the optical unit can be miniaturized
and the U-shaped arrangement can minimize the size of the product
10 set as shown in Fig. 13.

Fig. 14 is a schematic diagram showing the structure of an optical unit for a projection-type video display apparatus according to a twelfth embodiment of the present invention, in which the reflection-type optical characteristics switching elements 70a, 70b, and 70c for R-light, G-light, and B-light are used. Referring to Fig. 14, light from the reflection-type optical characteristics switching element 70a for R-light is incident on the left area of an incident lens in the image forming optical system 15a, light from the reflection-type optical characteristics switching elements 70b for G-light is incident on the center area of the incident lens in the image forming optical system 15a, and light from reflection-type optical characteristics switching element 70c for B-light is incident on the right area of the incident lens in the image forming optical system 15. At time 1, the R-light, which is converted into the

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G-light is outputted by the reflection-type optical characteristics switching element 70c for B-light.

Consequently, the B-light, R-light, and G-light are radiated at the top area, the center area, and the bottom area, of the reflection-type liquid crystal panel 12a, respectively. As mentioned above, the different color light is radiated to the top area, the center, and the bottom area, of the reflection-type liquid crystal panel 12a.

Of course, instead of the group 70a, 70b, and 70c of reflection-type optical characteristics switching elements for R-, G-, and B-light, a reflecting mirror may be used. According to the twelfth embodiment, the reflection-type liquid crystal panel 12a is separated into the three areas and the color light sequentially scrolls on the three areas. However, the reflection-type liquid crystal panel 12a can be separated into two areas, or three or more areas. In this case, sequentially, the color switching can be performed. The color switching not only of R, G, and B but also of R, G, B, W, and the like can be performed.

Fig. 15 is a schematic diagram showing the structure of an optical unit for a projection-type video display apparatus according to a thirteen embodiment of the present invention, in which groups 70d and 70e of transmission-type optical characteristics switching elements, PBSs 32a and 32b, and the reflecting mirror 16 are used.

Referring to Fig. 15, at time t1, an R polarizing rotation control element of the transmission-type optical characteristics switching element 70d makes the R-light as the S polarizing light incident on the PBS 32a, the incident light is reflected to the PBS 32a, and it is incident on the left area of the image forming optical system 15a. The G-light and B-light are converted into the P polarizing light by the transmission-type optical characteristics switching element 70d, are transmitted through the PBS 32a, and are incident on the transmission-type optical characteristics switching element 70e. Of the G-light and the B-light, the G-light is converted into the S polarizing light by the transmission-type optical characteristics switching element 70e, and the B-light as the P polarizing light is incident on the PBS 32b. The G-light is reflected to the PBS 32b, and is incident on the center area of the image forming optical system 15a. The B-light as the P polarizing light is reflected to the reflecting mirror 16, is converted into the S polarizing light by the $\lambda/2$ phase difference plate 33, and is incident on the right area of the image forming optical system 15a.

At time t2, the G-light is converted into the S polarizing light by the transmission-type optical characteristics switching element 70d, is reflected to the PBS 32a, and is incident on the left area of the image forming optical system 15a. The B-light is reflected to the PBS 32b, and is incident on the center

area of the image forming optical system 15a. The R-light as the P polarizing light is reflected to the reflecting mirror 16, is converted into the S polarizing light by the $\lambda/2$ phase difference plate 33, and is incident on the image forming optical system 15a. As mentioned above, the R-light, the G-light, and the B-light are sequentially incident on the left area of the image forming optical system 15a. The G-light, the B-light, and the R-light are sequentially incident on the center area of the image forming optical system 15a. The B-light, the R-light, and the G-light are sequentially incident on the right area of the image forming optical system 15a. The different color light is sequentially radiated at the top area, the center area, and the bottom area of the transmission-type liquid crystal panel 12a. Although the transmission-type liquid crystal panel 12a is separated into the three areas and the different color light scroll on the three areas, the transmission-type liquid crystal panel 12a can be separated into two areas or three or more areas. In this case, sequentially the color switching is smoothly performed. Not only the color switching of R, G, and B but also the color switching of the R, G, B, and W performed depending on the characteristics of the group 70d and 70e of transmission-type optical characteristics switching elements.

Hereinbelow, a scroll method according to the present invention will be described.

Referring to Fig. 27, by using the R polarizing rotation

control element 211, the G polarizing rotation control element 212, and the B polarizing rotation control element 213 described in Figs. 25A to 25F, at one time, the R-light is radiated to the overall liquid crystal panel 232, at another time, the G-light is radiated to the overall liquid crystal panel 232, and at further another time, the B-light is radiated to the overall liquid crystal panel 232. These operations are repeated, thereby projecting the color video image onto the projection screen.

Hereinbelow, a description is given of a relationship among response waveforms of the liquid crystal panel 232 and light waveforms radiated on the liquid crystal panel 232.

Fig. 27 is a characteristics diagram showing the waveforms of light and the response waveforms of the liquid crystal panel. Referring to Fig. 27, a waveform (a) shows a status in which a video signal is written to an electrode at the top of the liquid crystal panel 232, a waveform (b) shows a status in which a video signal is written to an electrode in the center of the liquid crystal panel 232, a waveform (c) shows a status in which a video signal is written to an electrode at the bottom of the liquid crystal panel 232, a waveform (d) shows a waveform of the R-light radiated to the liquid crystal panel 232, a waveform (e) shows a waveform of the G-light radiated to the liquid crystal panel 232, and a waveform (f) shows a waveform of the B-light radiated to the liquid crystal panel 232.

An operation for writing the video signal to the overall

liquid crystal panel 232 needs time t_1 to t_2 . Time t_2 to t_3 corresponds to the response time of liquid crystal. After the time t_2 to t_3 , the R-light is radiated. Next, the R-light must fall before time t_4 for writing the video signal to the electrode at the top of the liquid crystal panel 232. If the R-light is radiated over the time t_4 , the mixing of color light is caused because of the generation of a video image the G-light starts. Therefore, the R-light must fall before the time t_4 . As described above, the G-light is radiated to the liquid crystal panel 232 at time t_5 to t_6 , and the B-light is radiated to the liquid crystal panel 232 at time t_7 to t_8 . In the case of sequentially radiating the R-light, G-light, a B-light to the liquid crystal panel 232, the use efficiency of the light deteriorates.

An improved scroll method will be described with reference to Figs. 16 and 17. The scroll method is realized by using, for example, the R polarizing rotation control element 211, the G polarizing rotation control element 212, and the B polarizing rotation control element 213, which are shown in Fig. 26. A large number of electrodes extending in the horizontal direction are provided for the R polarizing rotation control element 211, the G polarizing rotation control element 212, and the B polarizing rotation control element 213 in the vertical direction, respectively. These electrodes are turned on/off, thereby changing areas of the R-light, the G-light, and the B-light which are radiated to the liquid crystal panel.

Fig. 16 is a characteristics diagram showing light waveforms and response waveforms of the liquid crystal panel for explaining a scroll method according to the first embodiment of the present invention. Referring to Fig. 16, waveforms (a), (e), and (i) show response waveforms of the liquid crystal panel, waveforms (b), (f), and (j) show waveforms of the R-light which is radiated to the liquid crystal panel, waveforms (c), (g), and (k) show waveforms of the G-light which is radiated to the liquid crystal panel, and waveforms (d), (h), and (l) show waveforms of the B-light which is radiated to the liquid crystal panel.

Figs. 17A to 17H are front views of a liquid crystal panel for explaining a scroll method according to the second embodiment of the present invention, in which writing of signals, responses of liquid crystal, and R-light, G-light, and B-light on the liquid crystal panel when the R-, G-, and B-light scroll on the liquid crystal panel in accordance with the characteristics diagram in Fig. 16.

Referring to Fig. 16, as shown in the waveform (a), at time t11, an R video signal starts to be written to an electrode L1 (not shown) at the top of liquid crystal panel. After the response time of the liquid crystal, as shown in the waveform (b), at time t12, the R-light is radiated to the electrode L1 and the R video signal is written to the electrode at the bottom of the liquid crystal panel. After that, at time t13, a G video

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Lz so as to fall just before time t33 for applying a voltage to the electrode Lz. As shown in the waveform (k), the G-light is radiated to the liquid crystal panel at time t34 to t35. As shown in the waveform (l), the B-light is radiated to the liquid crystal panel at time t36 to t37.

A description is given of a case in which the R-light, the G-light, and the B-light are supplied to the liquid crystal panel by using the liquid crystal panel. Referring to Fig. 17A, the B-light is radiated to the liquid crystal panel, it is completely radiated to the electrode L1, thereafter, at time t11, the R video signal starts to be supplied to the electrode L1. Then, the R video signal is sequentially supplied to the electrode, after the response time of the liquid crystal, the R-light is radiated to a liquid crystal portion corresponding to the electrode.

At time t12 to t21, the R video signal is sequentially supplied to the electrodes of the liquid crystal panel, and the R-light is radiated after the response time of the liquid crystal. As shown in Fig. 17B, the R-light is radiated. The time t21 to t22 corresponds to the response time of the liquid crystal for the R video signal which is supplied to the electrode Lm. The B-light is radiated only to a down portion of the electrode Lm.

As shown in Fig. 17C, at time t31, the R video signal is written to the electrode Lz. Time t31 to t32 corresponds to

the response time of the liquid crystal. Just before the time t_{32} , the R-light is radiated to a liquid crystal panel portion corresponding to the electrodes in the upper area of the electrode Lz.

As shown in Fig. 17D, after t_{13} , the G video signal is written to the electrode L1. The R-light is radiated to the electrodes other than the electrode L1. Time t_{13} to t_{14} corresponds to the response time of the liquid crystal of the G video signal which is supplied to the electrode L1. Until time t_{23} , the G video signal is sequentially supplied to the electrodes starting from the electrode L1. After the response time of the liquid crystal, the G-light is radiated to a liquid-crystal portion corresponding to the electrode.

As shown in Fig. 17E, at time t_{23} , the G video signal is supplied to the electrode L1. After the response time of the liquid crystal, the G-light is radiated to a liquid crystal portion corresponding to the electrode L1. The R-light is radiated to a liquid crystal portion corresponding to the electrode at the down area of the electrode Lm.

As shown in Fig. 17F, at time t33, the G video signal is supplied to the electrode Lz. Time t33 to t34 corresponds to the response time of the liquid crystal. At this timing, the R-light is not radiated to a liquid crystal portion corresponding to the down electrodes of an electrode L2.

As shown in Fig. 17G, at time t15, the B video signal is

5 As shown in Fig. 17H, at time t_{25} , the B video signal is supplied to the electrode Lm. Time t_{25} to t_{26} corresponds to the response time of the liquid crystal. The G-light is radiated to a liquid crystal portion corresponding to the electrodes at the down area of the electrode Lm. The B-light is radiated to
10 a liquid crystal portion corresponding to the electrodes at the up area in which the B video signal is written and the liquid crystal has already responded.

According to the first embodiment, the best radiation conditions can be set to the above portions without waiting for the response of the overall liquid crystal. Thus, the light can be efficiently used because a radiating time can be long, as compared with the case in Fig. 27.

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Fig. 18 shows a relationship among timings of the R-light,

the G-light, and the B-light, and response waveforms of the liquid crystal at typical six areas in the liquid crystal panel shown in Figs. 19A to 19D. Referring to Figs. 18 to 19D, there are six statuses of the liquid crystal panel, of writing of an R-signal, a G-signal, and a B-signal and radiation of the R-light, the B-light, and the G-light. In Figs. 19A to 19D, the R-light, the G-light, and the B-light are simultaneously radiated at different areas of the liquid crystal panel. The R-light, the G-light, and the B-light are sequentially moved in a descending direction. The R video signal, the G video signal, and the B video signal are written to the liquid crystal panel, and the R-light, the G-light, and the B-light are sequentially to the electrodes in which the response time of the liquid crystal passes.

First, a description is given of time t_{11} to t_{12} .

As shown in waveforms (a) to (d) of Fig. 18 and in Fig. 19A, at an area 1, at time t_{11} , the R video signal is supplied and, thereafter, time t_{11} to t_{12} corresponds to the response time of the liquid crystal at which no light is radiated at the area 1.

As shown in waveforms (e) to (h) of Fig. 18 and in Fig. 19A, at an area 2, the B light is radiated.

As shown in waveforms (i) to (l) of Fig. 18 and in Fig. 19A, at an area 3, at time t_{11} , the B video signal is supplied and, thereafter, the time t_{11} to t_{12} corresponds to the response

time of the liquid crystal at which no light is radiated at the area 3.

As shown in waveforms (m) to (p) of Fig. 18 and in Fig. 19A, the G-light is radiated.

5 As shown in waveforms (q) to (t) of Fig. 18 and in Fig. 19A, at an area 5, the G video signal is supplied at a part thereof at the time t11. Thereafter, the time t11 to t12 corresponds to the response time of the liquid crystal at which no light is radiated at the area 5.

10 As shown in waveforms (u) to (x) of Fig. 18 and in Fig. 19A, at an area 6, the R light is radiated.

Further, a description is given of time t12 to t41 with reference to Figs. 18 and 19B.

15 At the time t11, the R video signal written from the top electrode of the liquid crystal panel is sequentially written to the down electrodes. Simultaneously, the B video signal and G video signal, which are written at the time t11, are sequentially written to the down electrodes.

20 At the area 1, the R video signal, which is written at the time t11, is radiated after the time t12 at which the response time of the liquid crystal passes.

Although the B-light is sequentially moved down, the B-light is still radiated at the area 2.

25 At the area 3, the B video signal is written at the time t11, is radiated after the time t12 at which the response time

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At the area 5, the G video signal, which is written at the time t11, is radiated after the time t12 at which the response time of the liquid crystal passes. Although the R-light is sequentially moved down, the R-light is still radiated at the area 6.

Hereinbelow, a description is given of time t_{41} and time subsequent to time t_{42} with reference to Fig. 18 and Figs. 19C and 19D. At the up area of the liquid crystal panel, an area to which the R light is radiated is increased. Positions at which the B-light, the G-light, and the R-light are radiated are sequentially moved down. Also, positions at which R-light, the B-light, and the G-light are written are sequentially moved down.

According to the second embodiment, three optical characteristics switching elements, composed of the R polarizing rotation control element, the G polarizing rotation control element, and the B polarizing rotation control element, are provided. The respective R polarizing rotation control element, the G polarizing rotation control element, and the B polarizing rotation control element has a plurality of electrodes which are controlled thereby. Since only one or two color-light can be simultaneously used on the liquid crystal panel in Figs. 17A

to 17H, the remaining one or two color-lights are not used and become unnecessary. However, according to the second embodiment, the use efficiency of light is improved because the R-light, the G-light, and the B-light can be simultaneously radiated.

5 As mentioned above, according to the second embodiment, the use
efficiency of light is further improved.

In the above description of the scroll method, no light is radiated to the liquid crystal so as to prevent the mixing of color light at the response time of the liquid crystal. However, hereinbelow, a description is given of a method for radiating the light even in the response time of the liquid crystal while the mixing of color light is unremarkable, with reference to Fig. 20 and Figs. 21A and 21B.

Fig. 20 is a characteristics diagram showing light waveforms and response waveforms of the liquid crystal panel for explaining a scroll method according to the third embodiment of the present invention.

Figs. 21A and 21B are front views of the liquid crystal panel for explaining the scroll method according to the third embodiment of the present invention.

Referring to Fig. 20, the operating waveforms corresponding to those at the top in Fig. 16 are shown.

As shown in waveforms (a) to (d) in Fig. 20, video signals are sequentially written to the liquid crystal panel in order of magenta (M), red (R), yellow (Y), green (G), cyan (C), and

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area of the R-right area, the R-light or the B-light is radiated and the area thereof is sequentially moved down. In accordance with the movement, the B-light area is sequentially decreased.

A video signal of M (hereinafter, abbreviated to an M video signal) is written. After the response time of the liquid crystal passes, the R-light and the B-light are radiated. A video signal of Y (hereinafter, abbreviated to a Y video signal) is written. After the response time of the liquid crystal passes, the R-light and the G-light are radiated. A video signal of C (hereinafter, abbreviated to a C video signal) is written. After the response time of the liquid crystal passes, the G-light and the B-light are radiated.

According to the third embodiment, as mentioned above, the Y video signal, the C video signal, and the M video signal are written among the R video signal, the G video signal, and the B video signal. Thus, the time for radiating the R-light, the G-light, and the B-light can be prolonged and the deterioration in color due to the mixing of color light can be improved by setting the intervals of the R-light, the G-light, and the B-light as complementary color light.

Hereinbelow, a description is given of a method for reducing the response time of the liquid crystal with reference to Fig. 22. Fig. 22 is a waveform diagram for explaining the method for reducing the response time of the liquid crystal in which a waveform (a) shows a liquid crystal drive waveform, a waveform

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(b) shows response characteristics of the liquid crystal, a waveform (c) shows a waveform of the R-light, a waveform (d) shows a waveform of the G-light, and a waveform (e) shows a waveform of the B-light.

With respect to the response characteristics of the liquid crystal, it is slow upon transition from a middle tone to the other middle tone, and it is relatively fast upon transition from white to black or from black to white. Therefore, before starting to write the video signal to the liquid crystal, pulses 401 to 403 are applied and a voltage corresponding to black in the video signal or a positive signal voltage equal to the voltage or higher is written, thus resetting the liquid crystal panel. Also, pulses 404 and 405 are applied and a voltage corresponding to black in the video signal or a negative signal voltage equal to the voltage or higher is written, thus resetting the liquid crystal panel. Accordingly, the response time of the liquid crystal is reduced and the effect of the mixing of color light is further reduced.

Hereinbelow, a description is given of a switching method of various lights in the scroll method.

Fig. 23 is a schematic diagram for explaining a switching method of light in the scroll method. In an arrangement (a) of Fig. 23, the R-light, the G-light, and the B-light are sequentially switched and are radiated on the liquid crystal panel. In an arrangement (b) of Fig. 23, the R-light, the G-light,

the B-light, and the W-light are sequentially switched and are radiated on the liquid crystal panel, and a brighter video image is thus obtained, as compared with that in the arrangement (a).

In an arrangement (c) of Fig. 23, the R-light, G-light, and B-light are sequentially switched and are radiated on the liquid crystal panel by sequentially prolonging the radiating times thereof in order of the G-light, the B-light, and the R-light, for example, in inverse proportion to characteristics of dispersion

distribution of the lamp and, thus a video image having preferable white balance can be obtained. In an arrangement (d) of Fig.

23, the R-light is radiated for longer time and the radiating time of the G-light is prolonged corresponding to the long radiation of the R-light, as compared with the arrangement (c), and the R-light and the B-light which are weaker than the G-light can be compensated for and color temperatures thereof can be switched. In an arrangement (e) of Fig. 23, the radiating time of the R-light is longer than those of the G-light and the B-light, as compared with the arrangement (b). In an arrangement (f) of Fig. 23, the G-light having a higher relative luminosity is

radiated twice, as compared with the arrangement (a), thus having the advantage to prevent color separation of after-video-images of the R-, G-, and B-light. In an arrangement (g) of Fig. 23, Y (yellow) light, C (cyan) light, and M (magenta) light as complementary color light are inserted in the R-light, the G-light, and the B-light, thus ensuring the brightness, as

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compared with the arrangement (a). In an arrangement (h) of Fig. 23, there is only the W-light (white light) and a monochrome image brighter than the color image can be obtained.

Hereinbelow, a description is given of a drive circuit block for switching the arrangements (a) to (h) of Fig. 23 with reference to Fig. 24.

Fig. 24 is a block diagram showing an example of an image display circuit. Referring to Fig. 24, a digital video signal from a personal computer, etc. is inputted to a terminal 311, is decoded by a decoder 321, and is inputted to an enlargement/reduction keystone correcting circuit 324. An analog signal from the personal computer, etc. is inputted to a terminal 312, is converted into a digital signal by an A/D circuit, and is inputted to the enlargement/reduction keystone correcting circuit 324. A complex video signal from a television, etc. is processed by a video signal processing circuit 323, is inputted to a terminal 313, and is inputted to the enlargement/reduction keystone correcting circuit 324. An output from the enlargement/reduction keystone correcting circuit 324 is inputted to a frame rate converting circuit 325 and to a characteristics extracting circuit 328. The characteristics extracting circuit 328 extracts characteristics of an input signal such as information indicating that the amount of R-light, G-light, or B-light is large and information indicating that the amount of B, and outputs the extracted signal

to a timing control circuit 332. An output from the frame rate converting circuit 325 is outputted to a light valve drive circuit 327 via an RGB plane sequential signal processing circuit 326. A GUI (Graphic User Interface) 331 selects any of the arrangements (a) to (h) of Fig. 23 in accordance with a user's instruction of the type of a reproduced video image regarding the color temperature, and outputs the selected arrangement to the timing control circuit 332.

A light-on circuit 341 lights on a lamp 342. Light from the lamp 342 is incident on an optical characteristics switching element 344. The optical characteristics switching element 344 is driven by a color switching drive circuit 343. Output light from the optical characteristics switching element 344 is radiated to a light valve element 345 such as a liquid crystal panel. A light amount sensor 329 measures the amount of light, associated with the change of the lamp 324 and the light valve element 345 and the change of a filter when time passes. An output from the light amount sensor 329 is inputted to the timing control circuit 332. The timing control circuit 332 controls the overall circuits of the characteristics extracting circuit 328, the frame rate converting circuit 325, the RGB plane sequential signal processing circuit 326, the light valve drive circuit 327, and the like, based on inputs of the GUI 331, the characteristics extracting circuit 328, and the optical sensor 329, thereby switching the optical characteristics switching

Hereinbelow, a description is given of the principle of outputting various color light with reference to Figs. 25A to 25F.

Fig 25A is a diagram of the principle of the R-light. Referring to Fig. 25A, a voltage is applied only to the R polarizing rotation control element 211 and no voltage is applied to the G polarizing rotation control element 212 and the B polarizing rotation control element 213. Among the R-, G-, and B-light as the S polarizing light, the G-light and the B-light are converted into the P polarizing light by the G polarizing rotation control element 212 and the B polarizing rotation control element 213 and the polarizing plate 222 prevents the transmission of the G-light and the B-light. On the contrary, the R-light is incident on the PBS 231 as the S polarizing light and is reflected to the PBS 231, thus being incident on the liquid crystal panel 232. Therefore, only the R-light can be incident on the liquid crystal panel 232.

Referring to Fig. 25B, a voltage is applied only to the G polarizing rotation control element 212 and no voltage is

applied to the R polarizing rotation control elements 211 and the B polarizing rotation control element 213. Therefore, only the S polarizing light of the G-light can be incident on the liquid crystal panel 232.

5 Referring to Fig. 25C, a voltage is applied only to the B polarizing rotation control element 213 and no voltage is applied to the R polarizing rotation control elements 211 and the G polarizing rotation control element 212. Therefore, only the S polarizing light of the B-light can be incident on the liquid crystal panel 232.

10 Referring to Fig. 25D, a voltage is applied to the R polarizing rotation control element 211 and the G polarizing rotation control element 212 and no voltage is applied to the B polarizing rotation control elements 213. Therefore, the S polarizing light of the R-light and the G-light can be incident on the liquid crystal panel 232 and, thus, Y-light (yellow light) is radiated to the liquid crystal panel 232.

15 Referring to Fig. 25E, a voltage is applied to the G polarizing rotation control element 212 and the B polarizing rotation control element 213 and no voltage is applied to the R polarizing rotation control elements 211. Therefore, the S polarizing light of the G-light and the B-light can be incident on the liquid crystal panel 232 and, thus, C-light (cyan light) is radiated to the liquid crystal panel 232.

20 Referring to Fig. 25F, a voltage is applied to the R

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polarizing rotation control element 211 and the B polarizing rotation control element 213 and no voltage is applied to the G polarizing rotation control elements 212. Therefore, the S polarizing light of the R-light and the B-light can be incident
5 on the liquid crystal panel 232 and, thus M-light (magenta light) is radiated to the liquid crystal panel 232.

As mentioned above, according to the present invention, it is possible to provide a projection-type video display apparatus which is compact and has improved contrast.

Further, it is possible to provide a projection-type video display apparatus having improved use-efficiency of light.

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